

Appl. No.: 10/698,639

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have amended the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims herein. The following remarks are made with reference to the Listing of Claims herein.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11. The Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are objected to but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added the limitations of claim 4 into claim 1, its base claim, and has added the limitations of claim 9 into claim 7, its base claim. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are now dependent on claim 1 which should be allowable and claims 8, 10 and 11 are dependent on claim 7 which now should be allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1, line 4 in reference to "the two straps." Applicant has amended that phrase to state "the elongated straps" which has an antecedent basis in the claim.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected as being anticipated by Bloom. However, claim 1 has now been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 as set forth above.

Claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over Bloom in view of either Connors or Peters. Claim 3 now depends upon allowable claim 1. Claim 7 and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Bloom in view of Palacio. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9. Claims 8, 10 and 11 are now dependent on allowable claim 7.

In view of the Amendments to the Claims, early allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$225.00 is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Sanford Astor (Reg. No. #20,748) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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